Numb. 3.

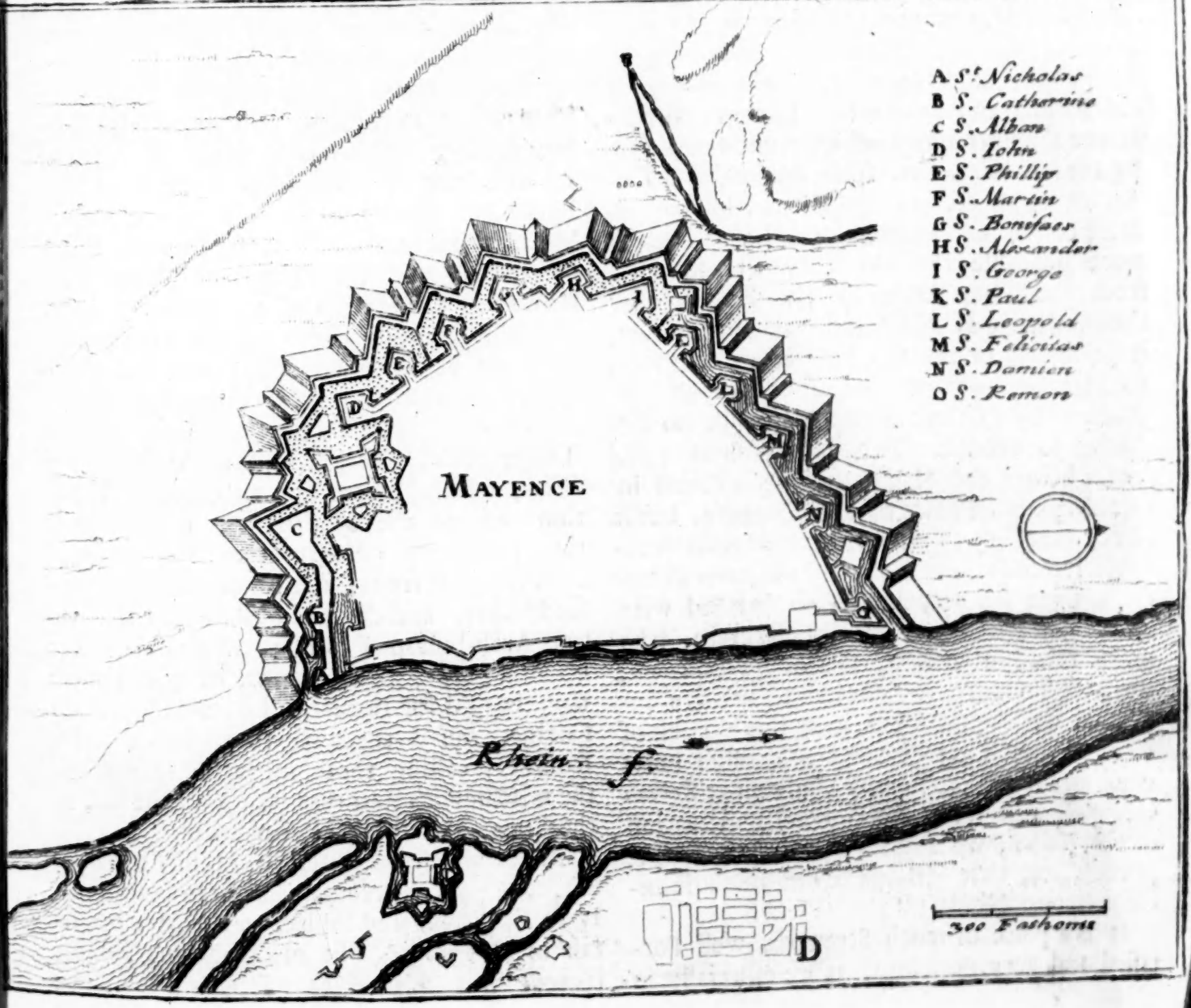
The Gentleman's Journal

FOR THE

WAR;

Being a Deſcription of the Fortified Cities and Towns of *Europe:*
With an Explication of the Terms uſed in Fortification when they occur.

Wedneſday, July 26. 1693. **Bentz.**



M E N T Z.

A Famous City of *Germany* in the Circle of the Lower *Rhine*, call'd *Mocontiacum* by *Ptolemy*, and *Magontiacum* by *Tacitus*, but at preſent *Moguntia*, *Maguntia* or *Mogantiacum*, in *Latin*; *Maynt*z, by the Inhabitants; *Mayence*, by the *French*; and *Magonza* or *Magontiaco*, by the *Italians* and *Spaniards*. Divers Authors derive the Etymology of its name from *Magog* the Son of *Japhet*, from *Magantius* a *Trojan*, or from certain Magicians who contributed to the building thereof. But it is much more probable that this City was ſo call'd from the River *Mogus* or the *Mayne*, near the confluence of which and that of the *Rhine*, it is ſeated in the Latitude of 52 Degrees, 50 Minutes, and the Longitude of 32 Degrees. Some *German* Hiſtorians make no difficulty to avouch, That it was built 1364 Years before the Nativity of *Jeſus Chriſt* by one *Nequam* a Prince of that Country, but it is not neceſſary to enquire out of what venerable Records this Account hath been extracted, ſince we may be better ſatisfied with the date which others attribute thereto, who make *Claudius Druſus*, ſirnam'd *Germanicus*, its firſt Founder. And indeed we are inform'd by *Lucius Florus* in the *4th.* Book of his Hiſtory, That divers conſiderable Forts were rais'd on the *Rhine* by that valiant *Roman* General, and from the convenient Situation of the Town, we may infer, with very great probability, that it might be one of thoſe ancient ſtrong Holds.

It is a place of much Streugth, well Fortified and very Populous, more eſpecially in that part which lies next the *Rhine*. It is diſtant ſix *German* Miles from *Francfurt* on the *Mayne* toward the Weſt, 18 from *Trier* and 15 from *Spire*, to the North. The City is adorn'd with many ſtately Churches, together with the Prince's Palace, the Town-houſe, and three Caſtles that are very much admir'd by Travellers, and more eſpecially the *Kraen*, which is a kind of Machine whereby the Merchandizes brought up the River are uſually diſcharg'd on the Key or Wharf. Here are alſo to be ſeen the Tomb of *Druſus*, and the Bridge of *Julius Caſar*. However, the Houſes of the ordinary Burghers are generally old, and the Architecture of them ill contriv'd, the Streets being alſo extreamly narrow. Near the Neighbouring Town of *Bingen* ſtands the famous old Watch-Tower call'd, *Mauſſthurn* in the midſt of the *Rhine*, which (according to conſtant Tradition among the Inhabitants, confirm'd by the Teſtimony of ſeveral ancient Authors) took its name from the Mice or Rats that purſued hither, and devour'd *Hatto* II. the covetous Arch-biſhop of *Mentz*, who having ſhut up in a Barn a great number of poor People that begg'd for Bread at his Gate during a Famine, caus'd them all to be burnt alive, ſcoffingly calling thoſe miſerable Wretches, the miſchievous Rats that eat up all the beſt of the Corn, and ſpoil the remainder.

Mentz was conſtituted an Archi-Epiſcopal See, *An.* 745. whereas it had been before only an Epiſcopal and ſubject to the Metropolitan of *Worms*. The moſt ancient Biſhop thereof was S. *Creſcens*, ſuppos'd to have been

been the Diſciple of S. *Paul*, and S. *Boniface*, who liv'd in the 8*th*. Century, is eſteem'd as the firſt Arch-biſhop. The Cathedral Church heretofore dedicated to S. *Stephen*, and at preſent to S. *Martin*, hath divers Suffragans, *viz.* thoſe of *Worms*, *Spire*, *Strasburg*, *Wirtzburg*, *Eichſtadt*, *Werden*, *Paderborn*, *Halberſtadt*, *Heldeſheim*, *Ausburg*, *Bamburg*, &c. The Arch biſhop who holds the firſt rank among the Electors, is Dean of their College and grand Chancellor of the Empire. *Willegiſus*, the Succeſſor of *Rupert*, was the firſt of theſe Electors eſtabliſhed by the Emperor *Otho*. It is commonly reported, That this Prelate was the Son of a Wheel-wright, and that to expreſs his Humility, he caus'd a Wheel to be blazon'd in his Coat of Arms. The Dioceſs of the Arch-biſhop of *Mentz*, call'd by the Inhabitants of the Country *Stifftvam Maintz*, is extended in part into *Franconia*, in the Circle of the four Electors of the *Rhine*, in *Heſſen* and *Thuringen*, being bounded with *Veteravia* to the North, and the Lower Palatinate to the South. The principal Towns thereof are, *Bingen*, *Aſchafenburg*, where the Elector uſually reſides in the Winter, *Miltemburg*, *Omenburg*, &c. *Fritzler* in the Country of *Heſſen*, *Friedburgh*, *Wiſbaden*, *Koningſtein*, *Erford* the Metropolis *of Thuringen*; the Territories of *Eiſchfelt*, *Duxderſtadt*, &c. depend on the ſame Prelate, who retains a General and a Chancellor in his Service, the former to tranſact Military Affairs, and the other to adminiſter Juſtice.

The City of *Mentz* was often laid waſte by the *Batavi*, in the Time of the Emperor *Veſpaſian*, by the Barbarians under the Reign of *Julian*, and by the *Vandals*, *Alani* and *Suevi*, about *anno Chriſti* 413. as it appears from an Epiſtle of S. *Jerom* to *Ageruchia*. It was alſo oppreſs'd with other Calamities in the Sixth Century; an Earthquake almoſt entirely overthrew it in 872, and a great part thereof was burnt in 1080. It was very much ruin'd by the Emperor *Frederick Barberoſſa*, and afterward repair'd by *Otho* IV. in 1158. It had been heretofore an Imperial and Free City, but was ſurpriz'd on the 27th Day of *October*, *ann. Dom.* 1462. by *Adolphus* of *Naſſaw*, the Archbiſhop, and hath ever ſince remain'd under the Juriſdiction of the Arch-biſhops and Electors his Succeſſors. It hath an Univerſity, which was founded *anno Chriſti* 800. and re-eſtabliſh'd in 1482. Here have been alſo conven'd many Councils, the firſt whereof was holden by thirty Biſhops and fifteen Abbots, on the 9th Day of *June*, *anno Chriſti* 813. when *Riculphus* govern'd this Church. In 1085. the Enemies of Pope *Gregory* VII. aſſembled a Convention at *Mentz*, where they declar'd, That the Election of the Anti-pope *Guibert* was lawful. In a Council of all the States of *Germany*, aſſembled in 1105. the Imperial Crown was taken from the Emperor *Henry* IV. and given to his Son. Laſtly, beſides ſeveral others, *Sebaſtian Heuſenſtam* held a Provincial Council in the ſame City, *A. D.* 1549.

Moreover it is generally believd, That the Art of PRINTING was there firſt invented, or at leaſt brought to perfection by *John Guttemberg*, *ann. Dom.* 1450. *Guſtavus Adolphus*, the renowned King of *Sweden*, was extreamly well pleas'd at the taking of *Mentz* in 1631. and made a very magnificent Entry therein, on the 14th of *December*, which was the Day of his Nativity, and began the thirty eighth Year of his Age: The Citizens were then oblig'd to redeem their Lives and Goods, by paying to the King a Ranſom of eighty thouſand Dollers, whereto the *Jews* added eighteen more, and the Clergy four. The ſame valiant Monarch gave Orders for the erecting of two conſiderable Bridges, *viz.* one over the *Mayne*, founded on fifteen great flat-bottom'd Boats and many Piles of Wood, and the other over the *Rhine*, ſupported by ſixty one large Boats. The former of theſe is demoliſh'd, but the latter as yet remains entire. A third Bridge had in like manner been laid over the laſt River by the Emperor *Charlemagne*, or *Charles* the Great, which (as it is related by Hiſtorians) was conſum'd with Fire, within the ſpace of three Hours, tho' the Work-men had been employ'd about ten Years in the Building thereof.

In

In fine, this City hath had a very great ſhare in the Calamities that have accrued to the Country of *Germany*, during the Wars of the preſent Age, and hath often chang'd its Maſter: Indeed it hath been well fortified within theſe few Years, with a ſtrong Fortreſs, built on an Hill, and beautified with a ſtately Electoral Palace. But the Memory of *John Philip*, the late Archbiſhop, is more eſpecially honour'd on the account of the Regular Fortifications, which were there erected by his ſpecial Command, and the timely Preparations he had made for the Reception of the preſent *French* King, who invaded thoſe Territories ſoon after the Works were finiſh'd. The *Dauphin*, his Son, found means to ſeize on this Place, in the Month of *October*, *anno Dom.* 1688. but it was recover'd by the *Germans*, in the Campaigne of the enſuing Year, ſix months after they had open'd their Trenches: However, the ſame Monarch ſtill continues to have a watchful Eye on ſo important an Hold, and would willingly take a fair Opportunity again to reduce it under his Dominion. *Petrus Cratepolus* hath publiſh'd the Annals of the Eccleſiaſtical Electors, and *Nicolaus Serrarius*, a Jeſuit, thoſe of the Princes and City of *Mentz* in particular.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

☞ *The* GENTLEMAN's JOURNAL *for the War*, Numb. 1. *being a Deſcription of the City, with a Draught of the Fortifications of* Dunkirk *Engraved in Copper, with an Explication of the Terms of Fortification.* Publiſhed *July* 13.

——Idem. Numb. 2. *A Deſcription of* Maeſtricht *and* Huy, *with a Draught in Copper as before.* Publiſhed *July* 20 To be continued Weekly. Sold by *Randal Taylor* near *Stationers hall.*

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